

CPS NOTARY PUBLIC EXAMINATION SERVICES

Testing Information

INTRODUCTION

To be granted a California Notary Public commission, you must meet the requirements set by the Secretary of State's office (see handbook) and pass an examination to verify that you have at least a minimum level of knowledge regarding the laws and regulations affecting notary public services. The Notary Public Section has contracted with Cooperative Personnel Services (CPS) to conduct its regularly scheduled examinations at established test centers throughout the state of California.

ABOUT THE EXAMINATION

The Notary Public Examination consists of multiple choice questions. It is a **CLOSED-BOOK** examination which is administered by proctors. Please allow approximately 1-2 hours for testing and proctor instructions. All of the material in the [California Notary Public Handbook](#) (including updates, if any) is subject to examination.

REGISTRATION

Registration must be received at least 15 business days prior to the requested examination date.

TO REGISTER CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

* To register on-line, simply go to the Notary Public website at <http://www.cps.ca.gov/TakeATest/Notary>
OR

* Call **1-916-263-3520** (available Monday - Friday, 8am - 5pm). Be prepared to provide the following information:

- **YOUR NAME**
- **MAILING ADDRESS**
- **DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER**
- **EXAMINATION DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION**
- **EMAIL ADDRESS**

A **confirmation scheduling letter** will be sent via email or USPS if your registration is made at least 15 business days prior to the examination date.

Special Accommodation Testing is available for applicants who are unable to take the examination on Saturday due to religious affiliations or have an ADA disability. Please contact CPS to make arrangements in advance. Please allow 3-4 weeks for processing.

Walk-in registration is allowed on a space-available, "first come, first-served" basis. Walk-in candidates will be admitted into the test center after all pre-registered applicants have been admitted. Walk-in registration **is not guaranteed**.

Arrival Time: All candidates, walk-in or pre-registered should arrive at the test site 45 minutes prior to the scheduled examination time.

Frequency of Testing: Candidates can test **ONLY** once per calendar month. If the examination is taken more than once in a calendar month, the second score will be invalid and any fees paid will be forfeited.

FEES

Each candidate must have a separate check or money order. Receipts are available upon request at the test site. CASH CANNOT BE ACCEPTED. Fees are to be paid by check or money order only made payable to the **SECRETARY OF STATE**, according to the following fee schedule:

- New applicants and Reappointments: **\$40.00**
- Applicants who have previously taken the examination and failed: **\$20.00**

Note: Fees are nonrefundable.

BRING THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS WITH YOU TO THE TESTING CENTER:

- One of the following **Photo Identification:** (current or issued within the last 5 years)
 - * A driver's license or State DMV I.D. card
 - * A Canadian or Mexican Driver's license
 - * U.S. Passport or Passport issued by a foreign government
 - * A U.S. Military I.D. Card
- **No other forms of photo identification are allowed.**
- A **check, money order, or cashier's check** for the appropriate fee made payable to The Secretary of State, with the candidate's name and last four digits of the Social Security number written on it. **No cash is accepted.**
- A **completed application form,**
- **2" x 2" color passport photograph of yourself,**
- The original **Proof of Completion** from your mandatory education class, if you have completed the course,
- Two (2) sharpened **No. 2 lead pencils**

During the exam all personal belongings must be placed in a designated storage area in the testing room. CPS is not responsible for any belongings at the test; therefore, CPS recommends bringing only your I.D., application materials, and a check or money order, and leaving personal belongings in your car or at home.

Reappointments: Candidates applying for reappointment are not encouraged to test more than twelve months in advance of the commission expiration.

Result Notification: Results from your Notary Public Examination will be emailed (if you provided an email address on the upper right hand corner of your application) or mailed via USPS 10 business days following the examination. Result information will **not** be discussed over the phone. **A SCORE OF 70 IS PASSING.**

Candidates passing the examination: All persons appointed as a Notary Public are required to undergo a background check by the California Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for each and every Notary Public Appointment. The Request for Live Scan Service form is available on the Secretary of State website at www.sos.ca.gov/business/notary/notary.htm

Candidates not passing the examination will be mailed a fail notice.

When **retaking** the examination, please submit:

- **Fail notification letter,**
- **Completed application form,**
- **2" x 2" color passport photograph of yourself**
- The original **Proof of Completion** from your mandatory education class, if you have completed the course
- A **check, money order, or cashier's check for \$20.00** made payable to the Secretary of State.

Emergency Test Center Closure: Inclement weather or other emergencies may force the closure of a test center on the scheduled test date. In that event, the examination will be rescheduled. All registered candidates will receive notification of the new date and time of the test.

Commission: Notary Public commissions are issued from the Secretary of State’s Office, Notary Public Section.

Convictions

State law requires all applicants be fingerprinted as part of a background check **prior** to being granted an appointment as a Notary Public. Information concerning the fingerprinting requirement will be mailed to candidates who pass the examination.

You are required to disclose **all** convictions on your application. Convictions dismissed under Penal Code Section 1203.4 or 1203.4a **must** be disclosed. If you have any questions concerning the disclosure of convictions or arrests, contact the Secretary of State prior to signing the application.

The Secretary of State will recommend denial of an application for the following reasons:

- Failure to disclose any arrest or conviction; or
- Conviction of a felony; or
- Conviction of a disqualifying misdemeanor where not more than 10 years have passed since the completion of probation. The most common disqualifying convictions are listed below; however, this list is not all-inclusive.
 - Accessory
 - Arson-related offenses
 - Assault
 - Auto theft
 - Battery
 - Burglary
 - Carrying a concealed weapon
 - Carrying a loaded firearm in a public place
 - Child molestation
 - Child pornography
 - Conspiracy
 - Discharge of a firearm in a public place or into an inhabited dwelling
 - Drugs, possession for sale and sale
 - Embezzlement
 - Escape without force
 - Failure to comply with a court order
 - Failure to pay child support
 - Failure to return to confinement
 - False financial statements
 - False imprisonment
 - Forgery
 - Fraud involving, but not limited to, bankcards, credit cards, insufficient funds/checks, insurance, mail, Medi-Cal or Medicare, real estate, tax, and welfare
 - Fraudulent impersonation of a peace officer
 - Hit and run
 - Kidnapping-related offenses
 - Manslaughter
 - Pimping and pandering
 - Possession of an unregistered firearm
 - Practicing without a license when a license is required
 - Prostitution
 - Rape
 - Receipt of stolen property
 - Resisting or threatening a peace officer
 - Robbery
 - Solicitation
 - Statutory rape
 - Tax evasion
 - Terrorist threats
 - Theft, grand and petty, including burglary and robbery
 - Threats to commit a crime involving death or great bodily injury

Note: When a recommendation is made to deny an application, the applicant has the right to appeal the recommendation through the administrative hearing process.

Rescoring Test Results: Requests for rescoring test results must be submitted in writing and accompanied with a \$20.00 money order only, payable to CPS. **No checks or cash will be accepted.** Rescoring requests must be received by CPS within 45 days after the test date at the following address: 241 Lathrop Way, Sacramento, CA 95815, ATTN: Notary Public Examination Services. Processing of these requests will be handled on a daily basis.

Security Procedures

- The following security procedures will apply during the examination:
- No questions regarding test items will be answered by the proctors. All necessary instructions are given by the proctor and are also in the test booklet. You will not be permitted to talk nor communicate with anyone other than the proctor, nor may you use books, notes, or other aids.
 - Once you have been seated and the examination begins, you may leave the test center **ONLY** to use the restroom (limited to one candidate at a time) and only after obtaining permission from the Chief Proctor. However, you will not receive additional time to complete the examination.
 - No children are permitted into the testing site.
 - Any candidate seen giving or receiving assistance, found with unauthorized materials, or who violates any security regulations will be asked to turn in all examination materials and to leave the test center. All such instances will be reported to the Secretary of State’s Office, Notary Public Section.
 - Copying or communication of the test content is a violation of security regulations and will result in the disqualification of examination results and legal action under Federal copyright laws.
 - No smoking, eating, or drinking is allowed in the testing center.

CPS Human Resource Services
Notary Public Examination
(916) 263-3520
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Sacramento, CA 95815
<http://www.cps.ca.gov/TakeATest/Notary>

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